

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - TURKEY - CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

REF: A) STATE 170003; B) ANKARA 4447

1. ON JULY 28 BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CONGRESSMEN RANGEL AND MORGAN MURPHY (D-ILLINOIS) INTRODUCED INTO RECORD STATEMENTS WHICH CALLED FOR ACTION AGAINST TURKEY IN THE FORM OF STRONGER LEGISLATION FOR HAVING VIOLATED AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT TO BAN CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY. BOTH EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBT ABOUT TURKEY'S ABILITY TO CONTROL ILLEGAL DIVERSION OF OPIUM OR OTHER NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES FROM CURRENT CROP AND FAULTED ADMINISTRATION FOR FAILING TO TAKE FIRM ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT OF A RESUMED FLOW OF TURKISH HEROIN INTO THE U.S. MURPHY
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SAID HE HAD VOTED AGAINST LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO BECAUSE OF

TURKEY'S RESCISSION OF POPPY BAN.

2. AMBASSADOR VANCE, SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXPERT DR. QUINTON JONES, INTRODUCED STATEMENT INTO

RECORD DRAWING HEAVILY ON FAVORABLE REPORTS FROM GENEVA AND ANKARA OF OBSERVED TURKISH CONTROLS. BOTH WITNESSES EMPHASIZED THAT NO EVIDENCE OF POD INCISION HAD BEEN NOTED AND CITED INDICATIONS OF SERIOUS INTENT BY TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CONTROLS WORK. AMBASSADOR VANCE STRESSED THAT PRESENT LEGISLATION (SECTION 481 OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT) ENTIRELY ADEQUATE TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS.

3. DEA WITNESSES WERE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR JENSEN, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS JOHN CUSACK AND ANKARA DEA CHIEF FRANK BRIGGS. CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL QUESTIONED ALL THREE CLOSELY AS TO WHETHER THEY CONSIDERED PRESENT TURKISH CONTROLS ADEQUATE AND WHETHER DEA WOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT BAD NEWS OBJECTIVELY WITHOUT BEING "MUZZLED BY OTHER AGENCIES". JENSON AND BRIGGS RESPONDED THAT CURRENT REPORTS INDICATED CONTROLS WERE WORKING AND AFFIRMED THEIR ABILITY TO REPORT OBJECTIVELY. CUSACK NOTED THAT FROM AN ENFORCEMENT POINT OF VIEW, IT WAS TOO LATE TO USEFULLY DEBATE WHETHER TURKISH CONTROLS WERE ADEQUATE OR NOT; THE PROOF OF CONTROL ADEQUACY WOULD BE SEEN BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND APRIL, THE PERIOD WHEN ILLICIT NARCOTICS SUBSTANCES, IF ANY WERE DIVERTED FROM CURRENT CROP, WOULD BE MOVING ACROSS EUROPE AND INTO U.S.

4. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT REPORTS SO GLOWING AS HE HAD RECEIVED ABOUT TURKISH CONTROLS COULD POSSIBLY BE TRUE. HE OPINED THAT A FEW CASES OF DISCOVERED POD INCISION WOULD MAKE REPORTS MORE BELIEVABLE. HE ALSO QUESTIONED ABILITY OF TURKISH INSPECTORS TO MEASURE ON GROUND EVERY SINGLE POPPY PLOT. HOWEVER, AT END OF HEARING HE CONCLUDED THAT CONGRESS SEEMED TO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT AND SEE IF HEROIN OR OTHER ILLICIT NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES FROM THE CURRENT TURKISH CROP WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPEAR ALONG THE TRADITIONAL TRAFFICKING ROUTES INTO THE U.S. FROM SEPTEMBER 1975 TO APRIL 1976 PERIOD, CITED BY DEA AS TIME TO EXPECT ILLICIT NARCOTICS MOVEMENT, IF NEW SUPPLIES WERE AVAILABLE.

5. COPIES OF VANCE, RANGEL AND OTHER STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED FOR EMBASSY INFO. INGERSOLL

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